Application/Control Number: 09/456,558

Art Unit: 1724

**CLMPTO** 

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**TJW** 

1. (Four Times Amended) A process for drying wet F32, which comprises placing a stream of the said F32 in continuous contact with a feed stock of a composition comprising a molecular sleve selected from a 3A, 4A or 5A type sieve, at a first temperature of between 5 and 78°C, and at a first pressure of between 0.6 and 25 atm.

wherein the sieve feed stock is regenerated by the process which consists in passing a stream of an inert gas over the feed stock, at a second pressure at about atmospheric pressure:

- (i) at a second temperature between 70°C and 176°C, for the time required to remove at least 80%, of the initial amount of F32 absorbed in the feed stock, and then
- (ii) at a third temperature between 180°C and 300°C, for the time required to remove at least 90%, of the initial amount of water absorbed in the feed stock.
- 2. (Thrice Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the stream of F32 to be dried is a stream of gas, and the first pressure is between 0.6 and 10 atm.
- (Twice Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the stream of F32 comprises a water content of less than 10,000 ppm.
- 4. (Twice Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the wet F32 is placed in contact with the sieve feed stock in a column located downstream of a plant for manufacturing F32.

Application/Control Number: 09/456,558

Art Unit: 1724

5. (Twice Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the molecular sieve used is a 3A type sieve.

Claims 6 - 10 canceled.

- 11. (Twice Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the first temperature is room temperature.
- 12. (Twice Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the first pressure is between 0.8 and 17 atm.
- 13. (Twice Amended) The process according to claim 2, wherein the first pressure is between 0.8 and 5 atm.
- (4. (Amended) The process according to claim 3, wherein the water content is less than 6000 ppm.

Claim 15 canceled.

- 16. (Thrice Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the second temperature is between 80°C and 165°C and at least 90% of the initial amount of F32 absorbed in the feed stock is removed.
- 17. (Thrice Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the third temperature is between 190°C and 250°C and at least 95% of the initial amount of F32 absorbed in the feed stock is removed.

Claims 18 – 20 canceled.

Application/Control Number: 09/456,558

Art Unit: 1724

21. (Amended) A process for drying wet F32, which comprises placing a stream of the said F32, comprising a water content of less than 10,000 ppm, in continuous contact with a feed stock of a composition comprising a molecular sieve selected from a 3A, 4A or 5A type sieve, at a temperature of between 5 and 78°C, and at a pressure of between 0.6 and 25 atm,

wherein the sieve feed stock is regenerated by the process which consists in passing a stream of an inert gas over the feed stock, at a pressure at about atmospheric pressure:

- (i) at a temperature between 70°C and 170°C, for the time required to remove at least 80%, of the initial amount of F32 absorbed in the feed stock, and then
- (ii) at another temperature between 180°C and 300°C, for the time required to remove at least 90%, of the initial amount of water absorbed in the feed stock.
  - the inert gas is helium.